

**A step toward independence.
A step toward better grades.
A step toward higher education.**

Take a STEP in the right direction

STEP (Service + Tutoring Equals Pride) is a free program designed for middle school youth who are not reaching their full academic potential and may be struggling socially. The program challenges youth to stretch themselves academically, pursue leadership and service opportunities, and learn more about planning for college and post-secondary educational opportunities.

Benefits to the Student

Our goal is that each STEP student will:

- improve their grades
- learn time management skills
- gain leadership skills
- understand the power of helping others through service projects
- learn about future career paths
- plan to pursue educational opportunities after completing high school

2010-2011 Results

- 86% of STEP participants have improved their grades
- STEP students, volunteers and interns have contributed over 1,000 hours of service to the community
- STEP Youth toured eight college campuses and 100% of students indicated an interest in pursuing a post-secondary education



Tutoring

Youth will work individually and in groups with tutors to improve their academic performance while also developing new goals and creating individualized study plans. Students will also have the opportunity to explore their natural interests and learn how these interests can become marketable skills or educational opportunities.

Service to Others

Youth will gain valuable leadership and organizational skills as they participate in a variety of community service projects. Service learning projects typically occur on weekends.

College Visits and Post-Secondary Educational Options

All STEP youth participate in the My Future Exploration Club which helps youth explore future career and educational opportunities.

Through the club, youth tour several college campuses and practice filling out college applications and job applications. They also participate in résumé workshops and mock interviews as well as prepare for scholarship contests. Youth are encouraged to explore their personal career interests and learn about the world of work through job shadowing opportunities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I apply for the program?

A: Get a registration form from the STEP Coordinator. Contact information is on the reverse side of this brochure.

Q: Will transportation be provided?

A: Yes. The STEP Program is able to provide transportation for our students in our agency vans which are driven by licensed, insured and approved NYFS staff. Space is limited and allocated by need. Please contact the STEP Program Coordinator if you have any questions.

Q: Who are the tutors/mentors?

A: Our tutors and mentors come from local universities and service organizations within the area. All volunteers are interviewed, screened and have completed a background check. They participate in extensive training and are supervised by the STEP Program Coordinator.

Q: Who is accepted into STEP?

A: Participants must complete an intake process to determine if their needs are appropriate to the program. Youth must be willing to work towards improving their grades, have an interest in leadership and community service, and need support for college and career planning.